



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut

From: Julie Bedford
Law Society of Nunavut Representative on the Legal Services Board of Nunavut

Re: Report for the 2020 – 2021 Annual General Meeting

Date: June 3, 2021

Board Membership

Two new members have joined the Board over the last year. Michelle Kinney is now the representative for the GN, and Simon Qingaqtuq is the new representative for the Kitikmeot region.

The Board is currently down two members, with one vacancy for a member-at-large, and the representative for the Kivalliq still awaiting appointment.

Operations Update

Covid-19 service disruption

The pandemic and associated shut-downs created some significant challenges for LSB. There were operational challenges that required a massive effort to enable staff to work from home, while maintaining effective client service. Systems were developed to provide support to staff working remotely, including an organizational intranet as well as online case management software. Hardware was secured and distributed where needed, and an operational plan was put in place to assign responsibilities and protocols.

During the lockdowns, in-custody matters became a priority and there was a push by staff lawyers to have these matters dealt with expeditiously. As a result of their efforts, the number of inmates decreased.

Structural changes

There has been an increased focus on implementing more structure within each practice area, and implementing processes that put contact with the client and client centered activities at the forefront. A new clinic coordinator position has been created as part of a working project at each clinic. There is also a new lead position within each practice area. Finally, a new management position, Manager of Strategic Policy Initiatives, was created to deal with some of the policy development.

Practice Area Developments

Over the last year there have been significant changes to the civil practice, which has resulted in a more streamlined approach that allows for contact with the client within 48-72 hours. The goal is to have the family law practice move in a similar direction. There is currently a significant backlog of family law cases, which LSB has recognized and is taking steps to address through a new initiative that was implemented earlier this year.

Human Resources Update

CEO departure and recruitment

LSB's current CEO Benson Cowan has resigned, with his last official day being August 31st, 2021. Stephanie Boydell has stepped in as Acting Executive Director pending the recruitment of a new CEO. Ms. Boydell has been working as LSB's Chief Legal Officer since 2018. LSB has hired the services of Odgers Berndtson to assist with the recruitment process, which is currently underway.

Clinic staffing

All court worker positions are currently filled.

The Kitikmeot saw a new Regional Director appointed last May. The Kivalliq is currently in the process of recruiting for the Regional Director position, which has been vacant since October.

LSB's Finance Officer in Gjoa Haven has departed after 15 years of solid service. The position is currently vacant.

LSB has provided students from the law program with employment opportunities through-out the four-year program, and has hired 5 articling students for the 2021-2022 year.